(b) if so, the names of members of the Board; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on reforming the National Security System, the Government has set up a Defence Procurement Board, headed by the Defence Secretary for procurement of weapons, equipment and weapon systems for the Services. Other members of the Defence Procurement Board are Secretary, Defence Production and Supplies, Secretary, Defence Research and Development, Secretary, Defence (Finance), Chief of Integrated Defence Staff of Chairman, COSC (CISC), Vice Chief of Army Staff, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Special Secretary (Acquisition). Financial Adviser (Acquisition) is the Member Secretary of the Defence Procurement Board. All activities related to Acquisition on the capital account in the Department of Defence have been entrusted to the Defence Procurement Board.

Forming the Andaman and Nicobar Command

1679. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to form the Andaman and Nicobar Command;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when it would come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have issued orders on 1.10.2001 for setting up of Andman and Nicobar unified Command by placing all force components of the three Services and Cost Guard located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the operational command of C-in-C, Andaman and Nicobar Command. The Command has become operational on 8.10.2001.

Defence deals which can be investigated for corruption

†1680. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified defence deals wherein investigation can be done under the suspicion of corruption;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the deals regarding purchase of Sukhoi 30 fighter aircrafts from Russia, Barak Missiles, T-90 Tanks, Rocket launchers, Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline and Tehelka scam are also included in these deals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per its terms of reference, the Justice K. Venkataswami Commission of Inquiry, which was appointed by Government following the Tehelka tape revelation, is investigating certain transactions relating to Ministry of Defence including SU-30 aircraft, Barak Missiles, T-90S Tanks, rocket Launcher MK-III, besides the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline transaction pertaining to Indian Oil Corporation.

Report of the Joshi Committee set up to study the problems of Army Officers

1681. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received a report of the Committee headed by Lt. General Joshi which was appointed to study the problems of the officers cadre particularly of the superseded Army Officers whose promotional avenues are closed;

(b) if so, when and what are the salient features of the report; and

(c) what action Government have taken on the recommendations of the Committee and if not, by when, it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The internal Committee ordered by Army Headquarters has since submitted its report.

(b) The report deals with certain aspects pertaining to the management of the Officers Cadre.

(c) The report of the Committee is still under discussion at Army Headquarters.

Polluting ordnance factory in Medak, A.P.

1682. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: